



September 12, 2014

Team 6 Note #4 – Azimuth Check for 2015

ONE TEAM! On 2 July 2014 my tour of duty in command crossed the 1-year mark. So let me begin by saying, “THANK YOU, ONE TEAM!” for a great year. In a short period of time we implemented many changes: in azimuth, in organization, in relationships, in authorities, in forces assigned – within USPACOM, within the Army, and within the Indo-Asia Pacific Region. This was absolutely tremendous work by those who were on the team during this dynamic time.

Over the last four months we’ve seen a significant amount of transition among our teammates through Permanent Changes of Station or through their departures from active service in our ranks. For those who PCS’d – we are hopeful that they will carry the knowledge gained with the Pacific’s One Team, and our approach to teamwork, with them into their next assignment. Keep making a difference! For those who departed by separating from the service, again, I say “THANKS” for the service you gave to our Army and our Team. As many of you know, in order to reduce the size of the Army from 495,000 active Soldiers to 450,000 active Soldiers we must release 45,000 talented and experienced professionals. Such numbers cannot be achieved through the normal losses that occur through an “up or out” promotion system, through separations for misconduct, mandatory retirement, and death or disability. That means, we, as an Army, have to ask more than these numbers to leave. Some of those who left our Team this year fall into this category and in the coming year we will see more. I would ask for you to view this as necessary. As Army professionals, we are raised and supported by our Nation, and our Nation has ordered that we get smaller. So as we see our talented and experienced professionals leaving the team, we want to ensure they feel the gratitude we have for their service and sacrifices. That will not be easy for them since no winner wants to leave a winning team while they still have something to offer. Many will have the opportunity to continue serving in the reserve components and we should encourage that. So tell them “thank you,” assist them in their transitions, and ensure they stay connected to the Team as Soldiers for Life.

In the coming months and over the next year we will see some exciting capabilities coming on line in the Pacific. Some examples include:

- The first Operation PACIFIC PATHWAYS which is underway and will end in October – wherein we will take a highly-ready unit, tailored into a special task organization, and deploy it into countries west of the International Date Line for exercises and engagements for about four months (from end to end); we are planning and preparing to do this three times in the next year;
- An increase in Army use and other countries use of the Pacific-based extreme cold weather and high altitude training programs at the Northern Warfare Training Center in Alaska, and similar amount of activity in the Jungle Operations Training Course in Hawaii;

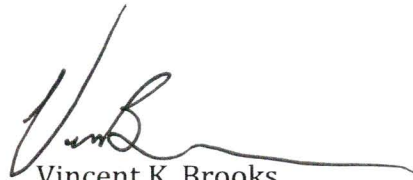
- Activation and usage of the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Capability (JPMRC) to enhance our homestation training, to connect our Pacific forces in common training exercises, and to project our connections out to selected regional partners;
- Publication of several strategies and plans to guide us forward in our activities within the region while helping to develop the Army of 2025;
- We will see, in ways not seen in the last 35 years, an amount of activity among our regional partners and other regional players that will change the dynamic relationships among countries.
- And, these will occur in an environment of reducing, but unpredictable, budgetary conditions . . .

Our approach in USARPAC will be to look for more opportunities and more creative ways to build our readiness to respond in a time of need, while helping shape the region for greater security and economic prosperity, achieving a posture of our forces, our equipment, and our relationships that will put us in a better position to meet future challenges. We have the opportunity to become better acquainted with the Indo-Asia Pacific region so that our cultural and environmental understanding creates the deepest foundations of trust (for us and from us). Throughout we will be communicating within and across the command, up to our higher headquarters – USPACOM and Department of the Army, and with the communities and American public who support us daily.

Sticking together as ONE TEAM, respecting and supporting one other as individuals and as teams of teams, will ensure the next year is an exciting and professionally fulfilling year. What a great time to be a Pacific Warrior and what a great privilege it is to serve our Nation here and now. I'm proud of you and I look forward to seeing you, and your achievements of excellence in the months ahead.

And when you are talking to family and friends back home, help to tell the story of the work you and your teammates are doing so they are aware of the heavy lifting that happens every day on your team!

ONE TEAM!



Vincent K. Brooks
General, U.S. Army
Commanding